

# CHERRY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## CHPS Weekly

District News for the week of March 13, 2015

## BOE Committees Work for Public, with Public

In addition to their monthly Work Sessions and Action Meetings, the Cherry Hill Board of Education conducts a series of committee meetings on a monthly basis, open to the public.

While it is common knowledge that our Board of Education

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Beck Middle School's  
*Alice in Wonderland, Jr*

March 13 & 14, 7 pm

March 15, 2 pm

Rosa Middle School's

(BOE) conducts open Work Sessions and Action Meetings, allowing designated time during each meeting for public comment, more BOE work is open to public observation and discussion at its committee meetings.

Our [nine Board members](#) divide their time among five committees:

- Business & Facilities
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Human Resources
- Policy & Legislation
- Strategic Planning

Each of these committees is chaired by a Board member, and includes three other Board members in addition to members of the Administration. The committees meet on a monthly basis to monitor progress toward the [BOE's annual goals](#), to learn about work underway throughout the District and to recommend moving presentations forward for full Board review. When committee members' questions are answered to reasonable degree, work is brought before the full Board for further discussion, questioning and consideration for implementation. Special committees may be created for special assignments, and are dissolved upon completion of their assignments. Details on the workings of School Boards in New Jersey may be found on the [New Jersey School Boards Association web site](#).

Public input is an important part of the committees' process. Right now, two topics of particular interest to the public are the middle school curriculum at the Curriculum & Instruction Committee meetings and a proposal for turf fields at the high schools, funded in part by Cherry Hill Township, at the Strategic Planning Committee meetings. As a result of public comment, the middle school curriculum discussion will be broadened to include subcommittees which will include parents. The BOE also welcomes continued public comments regarding the [turf field proposal, which you may view by clicking here](#). The only committee meetings not consistently open to the public are Human Resources meetings, because of the confidential nature of the issues discussed. [You may view all BOE meeting dates for the year by clicking here](#).

Our district news, including the departments in our former "e-

### [Seussical, Jr](#)

March 13, 7:30 pm

March 14, 1 pm & 7:30pm

### [SAT Testing @ Cherry Hill High School West](#)

March 14, 8 am-2 pm

### [Cherry Hill High School West's Production of Disney's Mary Poppins](#)

March 20, 21, 27 & 28,

7 pm

March 22 & 28, 2 pm

March 22 - Character Breakfast, 11:30 am

### [BOE Action Meeting](#)

March 24, 7 pm

news” – Up Front, District News, School News, Upcoming Events and Community News - is available by [clicking here](#). Check our [Activities Calendar](#) on the [District web site](#) for updates about upcoming events and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). You'll find the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 District Calendars [here](#). And visit our [YouTube channel](#) for videos from around the District.

And please continue to [send us any news](#) about what's happening in the District.

We wish every success to our students who are taking the SATs this weekend. May the weekend offer relaxation to all as well!

Sincerely,



Maureen Reusche, Ed. D.

Superintendent



## PARCC: Behind the Scenes

Amid all of the discussion and media coverage about PARCC, little has been said about the effort to implement the assessments. In the Cherry Hill Public Schools, the preparation process was a tremendous team effort of students, teachers, administrators and our technical staff. Perhaps least publicized has been the technology team's role in making PARCC happen.



## Technology Department Keeps Systems Humming

Many of us in the Cherry Hill Public Schools – students, staff and parents – can't imagine life without technology of cell phones, computers and other communication devices, whether at home or at school. We have our technology team (pictured above) to thank for being able to use a multitude of technology throughout our schools.



## Bret Harte Shows PARCC Positivity

On Wednesday, March 11, fifth graders across the Cherry Hill School District finished their first week of PARCC testing. Bret Harte Elementary School decided to celebrate their success.

Students reflected on the experience and created a poster sharing positive thoughts to let their fourth

Our technology team members began planning for PARCC and related projects in 2013. Preparing for PARCC involved the efforts of our entire team of 15 over the past 6 months. "I couldn't even begin to come to a specific hour count for PARCC, as we approached many of the PARCC technology requirements as year-round and district technology enhancement opportunities, such as increasing Internet Bandwidth, which would also meet the network demands of the PARCC test," says Marc Plevinsky, assistant director of technology for the District.

The technology team also provides continuous technical help and troubleshooting advice for the duration of the testing period. The first two weeks have run smoothly overall, with some minor technical issues. All parties involved in the assessments anticipate even fewer glitches in the final weeks of testing.

For more about our technology team members and what they do, see the story at right, "Technology Department Keeps Systems Humming."

"It wasn't that long ago that the majority of our technology was wired and on a desk," says Marc Plevinsky, assistant director of technology. "Today we couldn't imagine our schools without WiFi and "BYOD" (bring your own device) – our program where students and staff can connect their personal devices to the district network to access the Internet."

Fun fact: WiFi is not wireless! To support BYOD and district computers on WiFi, our district WiFi network includes over 550 access points strategically placed throughout our buildings connected with well over 15 miles of cable just for WiFi Access Points.

The technology department supports everything from computers, printers and network equipment, to servers for a variety of district systems with data for district and state reporting. They constantly refine the services and tools available for our students, staff and community to improve communication and efficiency. In classrooms, they work closely with our curriculum and building administrators to match the needs of the classroom with technology tools that will be easy and reliable to use.

Whether they're models of iPads, apps or a new instructional software tool, new technologies are launched regularly in the

grade peers know how prepared they felt for the test. The fifth graders then paraded through the fourth grade classes, wishing the fourth graders luck as they begin their testing week. There were many smiles and cheers as students celebrated ending one testing week and beginning the next!

As an update, the following are the PARCC participation rates for students during the week of March 9:

#### English/Language Arts

Elementary: 92 %

Middle School: 76 %

High School: 37 %

#### Algebra

Algebra I (Middle School and High School combined): 62%

Algebra II (High School only): 32% participation

District. "Our department is constantly learning at a tremendous pace to integrate and support these tools as best as possible for our students and staff," Mr. Plevinsky adds.

We thank the entire technology team for their hard work.

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